

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00706 131701Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W
-----008138 131740Z /50

P 131145Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9840
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 0706

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC IT
SUBJ: W/W: TRANSFER OF FUNDS VIA AMERICAN EXPRESS.

REF: STATE 02144

1. BACKGROUND-PRIOR RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBASSY HAD RECOMMEDED FOLLOWING PROCEDURE TO AMCITS IN NEED OF FUNDS FROM US IN VIEW GENERAL UNRELIABILITY OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN ROME: "ARRANGE WITH NEAREST OFFICE OF AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY (OR WESTERN UNION, OR BANK, IF THERE IS NO AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE NEARBY) TO TELEGRAPH MONEY TO FOREIGN REMITTANCE DEPT. OF AMERICAN EXPRESS, 65 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. FOR TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER TO AMERICAN EXPRESS, ROME, ITALY PAYABLE TO (YOUR NAME), (YOUR ADDRESS IN ROME),(YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER). PROCEDURE USUALLY TOOK 2-3 WORKING DAYS, SOMEWHAT LONGER DURING PEAK SUMMER PERIOD.

2. AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBASSY CONTACTED AMEXCO ROME AND AMEXCO EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND TO ASCERTAIN IMPACT OF APPARENT NEW POLICY REGARDING TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS.
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3. AMEXCO LONDON ADVISED THAT FOREIGN REMITTANCE DEPT AT 65 BROADWAY IN N.Y. WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED ON JANUARY 1, 1978, ALTHOUGH AS A COURTESY TRANSFER OF FUNDS WOULD STILL BE HANDLED UNTIL END OF JANUARY. NEW PROCEDURE, ENTITLED "EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFER SYSTEM", PROVIDES THAT FUNDS, NOT TO EXCEED DOLS 500, CAN BE WIRED FROM ANY FULL SERVICE TRAVEL OFFICE OF AMERICAN EXPRESS

IN THE U.S. TO ANY FULL SERVICE TRAVEL OFFICE IN EUROPE. AMEXCO CONTEMPLATING RE-OPENING FLORENCE OFFICE ESPECIALLY TO ACCOMMODATE TRAVELERS WHO UTILIZE CASH TRANSFER SYSTEM, BUT NO DECISION EXPECTED FOR AT LEAST 2 MONTHS. A FEE OF DOLS 25 IS CHARGED FOR THIS SERVICE. THIS FEE INCLUDES TELEX COSTS AND WILL BE CREDITED AGAINST FEE FOR TRAVELERS CHECKS IF SUCH ARE PURCHASED BY RECIPIENT. FUNDS TRANSMITTED THROUGH AMEXCO SHOULD BE RECEIVED USUALLY WITHIN ONE RPT ONE WORKING DAY, AND ROME AMEXCO CONFIRMS NEW PROCEDURE SO FAR ADHERING TO THIS TIME FRAME. PAYEE WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED, HOWEVER, WHEN FUNDS RECEIVED.

4. GREATEST IMPACT ON AMEMBASSY ROME'S SITUATION RESULTS FROM FACT THAT PERSONS IN US WISHING TRANSFER FUNDS TO AMCITS IN ROME AND NOT RESIDING NEAR A US AMEXCO FULL SERVICE TRAVEL OFFICE WILL NOT LONGER BE ABLE TO UTILIZE WESTERN UNION OR THEIR LOCAL BANK TO TELEGRAPH FUNDS TO AMEXCO NEW YORK FOR ONWARD TRANSFER TO AMEXCO ROME.

5. THEREFORE, GIVEN UNRELIABILITY OF REULAR BANKING CHANNELS IN ROME , EMBASSY WILL BE FORCED MAKE MUCH GREATER USE OF SCS/TRUSTS THAN IN THE PAST FOR DESTITUTES WHOSE CONTACTS IN US FALL UNDER PARA 4 ABOVE.

6. AS AMEMBASSY ROME WILL BE HOSTING CONSULAR CONFERENCE FOR CONSTITUENT POSTS JANUARY 19 AND 20, DEPT'S COMMENTS ARE SOLICITED.
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HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION
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Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780165/aaaaccvm.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W: TRANSFER OF FUNDS VIA AMERICAN EXPRESS.
TAGS: CASC, IT
To: STATE
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